

VZCZCXRO6790
RR RUEHDBU RUEHLN RUEHVK RUEHYG
DE RUEHAA #0273 0721249
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 131249Z MAR 06
FM AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 7081
RUEHNT/AMEMBASSY TASHKENT 4937
RUEHTA/AMEMBASSY ALMATY 5375
INFO RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE
RUEABND/DEA HQS WASHINGTON DC
RULSMCA/DEA QUANTICO VA
RULSMCA/DEA TRAINING QUANTICO VA
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC//DHO-2/REA/NMJIC-J2//
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHMFIUU/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCJ2/HSE/CCJ5//
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC//J5/RUE//

UNCLAS ASHGABAT 000273

SIPDIS

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STATE FOR SCA/CEN (PERRY)
TASHKENT FOR CORTINOVIS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [SNAR](#) [PREL](#) [PINR](#) [PGOV](#) [PBTS](#) [TX](#)
SUBJECT: 1,033 KG. OF NARCOTICS SEIZED ON TURKMENISTAN-
IRANIAN BORDER

¶1. The national newspapers of Turkmenistan "Neytralnyi [Neutral] Turkmenistan" and "Turkmenistan" reported on March 13 that Turkmenistani border guards seized 830 kilograms of opium and 203 kilograms of hashish at the Sarakhs border crossing checkpoint on the Turkmenistan-Iranian border. The newspapers said the Turkmenistani law enforcement agencies have begun an investigation, but no further details were provided.

¶2. This is the second publicized drug seizure in the last two years and perhaps a hopeful sign of GOTX willingness to cooperate on cross-border issues. We will attempt to follow up with the GOTX in conjunction with an upcoming INL Amendment to the Letter of Agreement signing.

JACOBSON